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REMARKS

The claims have been amended to correct some informalities. Concerning the rejection of claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Döring et al. (US 6 374 611) in view of Elperm (US 4 656 834), it is noted that US 6 374 611 has the same inventors and is assigned to the same company (DaimlerChrysler AG, Stuttgart, Germany) as the present application. The enclosed Terminal Disclaimer should therefore overcome the rejection of claim 1 and 5 of the present application under 35 USC 103(a).

Reconsideration of claims 1 and 5 is respectfully requested.

The dependent claims 2 and 4 were considered by the Examiner to include patentable subject matter. Claim 3 is dependent on claim 1 and consequently includes all the features of claim 1 so that it should be patentable together with claim 1.

Reconsideration of claim 2 is also requested and allowance of claims 1 to 5 is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Bach

Klaus J. Bach, Reg. No. 26832